

learn how to live in harmony with the environment, not to destroy, rape, and pillage it, but to view the earth as the mother from whom all things flow, and without whom nothing of value can continue to exist. And the native Americans have not lost this. He said that when the Christians went among the native Americans they presumed that everybody who is different wanted to be a Christian so they got about the business of using every means at their disposal to turn people into Christians, and that the Christians were so taken up with sin and guilt that they ceased to view God as the creator and the giver of good things, and as a result of that different emphasis, the environment suffers. When Christian missionaries have gone to other places where people are considered not developed or not civilized to the point of cutting down all the trees, producing acid rain, polluting the streams, polluting and contaminating the groundwater, they found that these uncivilized people never ran into the problem of losing the balance that nature had placed there, that there was an almost reverential respect for everything in nature, whether it was the sun, the sky, the stars, a stick, a stone, the earth, or whatever. And if people could live in harmony with these inanimate objects and so-called lower creatures, it was easier for them to live in harmony with each other. The World Wars were not fought by the underdeveloped. The atom bomb was not created by the underdeveloped. The Chinese invented gunpowder and they were the last ones to get the bomb, meaning the atomic bomb. The gunpowder was not used for destructive purposes but I guess their use of it was in line with those people who produce books and songs and poems. And the ones who make the bombs destroy all these things in one fell swoop and the environment with it. I believe that not only are we, as senators, obligated to seek the passage of wise and just laws, our job is, as Senator Warner mentioned the other day, to help educate. That means we have to discuss ideas and issues which may never find their way into legislation. We have to make people, if we can, think about those things that are important. Maybe contaminated groundwater is not anything somebody would think about until they turned on their tap and strange items and smells came out with the water. But, again, these are things that are taken for granted. Clean water has always been here so it will always be here. Coal, precious metals, trees have always been here so they will always be here, and if they are not, by the time the future generations come who will be deprived of these things, we who did the damage won't be here anyway to suffer it. The only way a person or a society can achieve immortality is through their children and their children's children. That is an undeniable biological